*1 september 2023.*

Texas' Governor, Greg Abbott, has launched what appears to be a full-on border war against migrants and refugees. Children and families who, like me, came to the U.S. to find safety and a better life for themselves and their loved ones. Instead of extending compassion for those fleeing war, climate disaster, political punishment, and more, the Texas governor has used the idea of an “invasion” of migrants to launch the multibillion-dollar “Operation Lone Star” to imprison and harm people on the border.

**One tech company is aiding this war against migrants and refugees, and that’s Israeli Cobwebs Technologies — a surveillance tech company co-founded by Israeli intelligence members.**

**Tell Texas Governor Abbott: Stop your war on migrants and refugees at the border, and stop using Cobwebs Technologies’ Israeli apartheid tech to track and cage families.**

**In July, Texas troopers under Abbott were “ordered to push small children and nursing babies back into the Rio Grande” — and “told not to give water to asylum seekers even in extreme heat (3).”**

**This is the kind of inhumanity that Governor Abbott is pushing, and Israeli Cobwebs Technologies is supporting: Israeli Cobwebs Technologies’s tech would let that the same Texas-government track people’s movements. From our smartphones.  Without any court order**I gotta tell you, I know a little about what it’s like to be targeted and surveilled so authoritarians and white supremacists can do their worst. Palestinians, under Israeli occupation, know worse. They are among the most surveilled people in the world. **If Cobwebs Technologies is being used on migrants and refugees in a so-called “invasion” on the border, it is, or most certainly will be, used to surveil all people. And activists of all backgrounds.**

**Don’t sleep on Cobwebs Technologies. Don’t turn away from Abbott’s war on migrants and refugees.**

We also need to keep a steady eye on technology developed in Israel to track and surveil Palestinians. It’s wrong in Palestine, and it’s wrong here. If you care about migrants and refugees, if you care about Palestinians living in a state of perpetually being watched, if you care about your own right to privacy and freedom of movement, then take action!

In solidarity,

Linda, Granate, Ishraq, and the team at MPower Change

Sources:

1. “Texas State Police Purchased Israeli Phone-Tracking Software for ‘Border Emergency’” *Intercept*, July 26, 2023.
2. “Aimed at Protests, Surveillance Contractor's New Owners Expand Spy Tech Portfolio,” *Unicorn Riot*, Aug. 20, 2023.
3. “Texas Trooper Blows Whistle on 'Inhumane' Orders for Border Migrants,”*Newsweek*, Aug. 18, 2023.

*1 september 2023*

Israël maakt er geen geheim van de Westelijke Jordaanoever formeel te willen annexeren, daarmee zijn *from the river to the sea*-project voltooiend. De Palestijnen wacht uitzichtloze voortzetting van het onrecht dat hun levens al generaties domineert. Geweld op enorme schaal is een reëel risico, en dat zal geen winnaar, maar alleen verliezers opleveren.

**Human Rights Watch: steeds meer Palestijnse kinderen slachtoffer van Israëlisch geweld**

Op 28 augustus heeft Human Rights Watch (HRW) een schokkend nieuw rapport gepubliceerd over het sterk toenemende aantal Palestijnse kinderen dat (straffeloos) door Israëlische veiligheidstroepen is vermoord. Van de afgelopen vijftien jaar was 2022 het dodelijkste jaar voor Palestijnse kinderen, en in 2023 lijkt het aantal gedode Palestijnse kinderen opnieuw hoger uit te gaan vallen.

In de door HRW onderzochte gevallen schoten Israëlische militairen de kinderen direct in het bovenlichaam. Dat gebeurde zonder enige waarschuwing en met scherpe munitie. HRW constateert dat de kinderen klaarblijkelijk geen ernstige dreiging vormden voor de Israëlische troepen.  
  
HRW roept Israël op om te stoppen met het onrechtmatige en dodelijke geweld tegen Palestijnen, roept de aanklager van het Internationaal Strafhof op het onderzoek naar oorlogsmisdaden in bezet Palestijns gebied te bespoedigen en roept de internationale gemeenschap op om voorwaarden aan Israël te stellen die moeten leiden tot beëindiging van het dodelijk geweld tegen Palestijnen (en andere schendingen van internationaal recht).

**Belgische minister uit kritiek op Israëlisch geweld tegen Palestijnen, ambassadeur ontboden**

Tegen de Belgische ambassadeur in Israël is op 31 augustus door het Israëlische ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken in Tel Aviv protest aangetekend. Aanleiding was een uitspraak van de Belgische minister van Ontwikkelings-samenwerking in een [**interview**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=082468fef1&e=37d294b014) met De Morgen.

Minister Caroline Gennez sprak met een journalist van het Belgische dagblad over de noodzaak voor Belgische ngo's om zich de komende jaren meer toe te leggen op 'vergeten crisissen'. De situatie in de bezette Palestijnse gebieden is daar volgens de minister één van. Daar wordt de situatie onhoudbaar, aldus Gennez: 'Er worden hele dorpen van de kaart geveegd door de Israëli’s. De periodes van escalerend geweld zijn korter dan voorheen, maar wel frequenter en intenser. Daardoor krijgt de bevolking geen ruimte meer om op adem te komen. Sinds begin dit jaar zijn er al meer Palestijnen verwond en gedood bij geweld dan in heel het jaar 2022.'  
  
De opmerking leidde tot protest van de Israëlische ambassadeur in België, Idit Rosenzweig Abu, die zei dat de beschuldigingen 'vals en lasterlijk' waren. Het tegendeel is waar. Uit [**cijfers**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=3e6a1c00db&e=37d294b014) van UN OCHA blijkt dat tot en met 21 augustus dit jaar 202 Palestijnen omkwamen door Israëlisch geweld. In 2022 waren dat er 181.

**VN-Rapport De (il)legaliteit van de Israëlische bezetting**

De Israëlische bezetting van de Westelijke Jordaanoever is illegaal onder het internationaal recht. Dat is de zoveelste keer dat dit, ingevolge het internationaal recht, in een VN-rapport deze week opnieuw wordt  geconstateerd. Dit rapport werd opgesteld in opdracht van het VN-Comité voor de uitoefe-ning van de onvervreemdbare rechten van het Palestijnse volk.

Uit het meer dan honderd pagina's tellende rapport blijkt dat Israël structureel talrijke normen van het internationaal recht schendt, waaronder het deporteren van de eigen bevolking naar bezet gebied, het schenden van de rechten van de bezette bevolking en het invoeren van apartheidspraktijken.

'De studie concludeert dat Israël al deze wetten op grove wijze schendt,  zei Michael Lynk, de voormalige speciale VN-rapporteur voor Palestina, tegen de commissie tijdens de presentatie van het rapport.  
  
'Omdat de bezetting illegaal is, zouden de gevolgen de onmiddellijke, onvoorwaardelijke volledige terugtrekking van de Israëlische strijdkrachten moeten zijn, evenals de terugtrekking van de kolonisten, de intrekking van alle discriminerende wetten en de ontmanteling van het militaire administratieve regime,' aldus Lynk.  
  
Het rapport sluit af met een oproep tot herstelbetalingen 'aan de getroffen Palestijnse individuen, bedrijven en entiteiten, voor de generationele schade die is veroorzaakt door de toe-eigening van land en eigendommen door Israël, de sloop van huizen, plundering van natuurlijke hulpbronnen, het weigeren van terugkeer en andere oorlogsmisdaden en misdaden tegen de menselijkheid' (p. 106)

**Nederland levert geen geschreven bijdrage aan onderzoek Internationaal Gerechtshof**

Sinds begin dit jaar loopt er een [**onderzoek**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=f0c3a693c2&e=37d294b014) bij het Internationaal Gerechtshof in Den Haag naar de *Legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem*.  
  
Inmiddels is bekend welke VN-lidstaten gebruik hebben gemaakt van hun recht om schriftelijk commentaar te leveren op de zaak - de deadline om stukken in te dienen verliep op 25 juli.

Uit een communiqué van het Gerechtshof blijk dat Nederland dit, in tegenstelling tot 55 andere landen, niet heeft gedaan. De Europese landen die wel een verklaring hebben ingediend zijn België, Frankrijk, Hongarije, Ierland, Italië, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Noorwegen, Spanje, Tsjechië en het Verenigd Koninkrijk.

*3 september 2023*

This is Yeheli, the coordinator for Mesarvot network (Israeli network supporting Israeli youth refusers). I’m writing to give you all the latest updates about our actions.   
  
We have exciting news. In the past few months we have been supporting a group of Israeli youth, obligated by law to enlist in the near future, in the process of writing a refusal declaration they initiated. In the declaration they state they will refuse military service for as long as the Israeli government continues anti-democratic oppressive actions, both towards Palestinians and Jews alike. 230 youth have signed the statement to date and we officially release it today to the Israeli public. Read the full statement below and please make sure to share it with friends, family, and colleagues.

**Youth against Dictatorship, Summer 2023**

As young women and men about to be conscripted into Israeli military service, we say NO to dictatorship in Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We hereby declare that we refuse to join the military, until democracy is secured for all who live within the jurisdiction of the Israeli government.   
  
Despite our six months of determined struggle for a genuine democracy that has been waging in the streets almost daily, the government continues to pursue its destructive agenda. We truly fear for our own future, and for the future of all who live here.   
  
In view of this, we have no choice but to take extreme measures and refuse to serve in the army.  A government that destroys the judiciary is not a government that we can serve.  An army that militarily occupies another people is not an army that we can join.   
  
The judicial coup has already exerted an enormous price on the Israeli society and on the Palestinian people. The dictatorship that has existed for decades in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is now oozing into Israel proper and is directed against us. Violent settlers now control the entire state. These are not recent developments. Undemocratic attitudes and actions are essential to maintaining this regime of occupation and Jewish supremacy.  The only thing that has changed is that the mask is now off.  
  
Faced with this reality, we say NO!We know that the more youth groups will refuse service, the bigger the impact we’re going to have on the political situation in Israel. We hope to get this declaration through mainstream Israeli media channels to give more Israeli youth the courage and confidence to refuse themselves. Please [**share this statement**](https://refusersolidarity.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=766e8a32ffe12bdef97341bb9&id=ce6128effa&e=a1c3038122) with everyone you know so we can get them all the support they need to continue their important actions.

In solidarity,  
  
Yeheli

*3 september 2023*

**230 Israeli Teenagers Are Declaring their Refusal to Enlist in the Israeli Army to Protest the Dictatorship in Israel and in the Occupied terrirories**

***Another Declaration***

**AS WE WRITE THIS POST, OVER 200 TEENAGE ISRAELIS ARE LAUNCHING A PUBLIC REFUSAL LETTER, ANNOUNCING THEY WILL NOT ENLIST IN THE ISRAELI ARMY AS AN ACT OF PROTEST AGAINST THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT S LEGAL OVERHAUL TO INTRODUCE A FURTHER DICTATORSHIP, AND IN PROTEST OVER ISRAEL'S ONGOING DICTATORSHIP IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES. READ THEIR LETTER BELOW. AND SHARE IT WITH AS MANY PEOPLE YOU KN0W. WE NEED TO HAVE THEIR BACK.**

Youth against Dictatorshjp, Summer 2023

As young women ancl men about to be conscripted into Israeli military

Service, we say NO to dictatorship in Israel and in the Occupied

Palestinian Territories. We hereby declare that we refuse to join the

military, until democracy is secured for all who live within the

Jurisdiction of the Israeli government.

Despite our six months of determined struggle for a genuine

democracy that has been waging in the streets almost daily, the

government continues to pursue its destructive agenda. We truly fear

for our own future, and for the future of all who live here.

In view of this, we have no choice but to take extreme measures and

refuse to serve in the army. A government that destroys the judiciary is

not a government that we can serve. An army that militarily occupies

another people is not an army that we can join.

The judicial coup has already exerted an enormous price on the Israeli

society and on the Palestinian people. The dictatorship that has existed

for decades in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is now oozing into

Israel proper and is directed against us. Violent settlers now control

the entire state. These are not recent developments. Undemocratic

attitudes and actions are essential to maintaining this regime of

occupation and Jewish supremacy. The only thing that has changed is

that the mask is now off.

Faced with this reality, we say NO!

11 september 2023

As we enter the Jewish New Year, a time of renewal and recommitment, we’re stepping up our fight against Israeli oppression of Palestinians.

Right now, JVP has a plan to end U.S. support for Israeli apartheid — and we’re ready to share it with the world.

**Join JVP at our mass meeting on September 27 as we launch our five-year strategy to challenge U.S. support for Israeli apartheid.**

**Register now**

After a year of seeking out input from thousands of people — Palestinian leaders, JVP members, and movement partners — we know how we can most effectively contribute to Palestinian liberation.

But it will only be possible if we show up, and bring what we learn into practice in our communities.

**This strategic plan reflects our mandate in the movement, as the largest anti-Zionist Jewish organization in the world, and lays out our key strategies over the next five years.**We’re gathering more U.S. Jews than ever before, launching key campaigns to weaken the U.S.-Israeli alliance, and building power towards ending U.S. government complicity in Israeli apartheid.

**We’re building to fight, and we’re fighting to win.**

See you there,

Stefanie Fox  
Executive Director

P.S. **Join us on September 27 as we plan strategy for the next five years.**

15 september 2023

This past year was one of the deadliest in recent memory for Palestinians.

As we prepare to greet  5784, stronger and more united in our liberatory mission, it’s crucial that we take this time to reflect. During these Days of Awe, we sit with both the tragedies of the past year and our hope for the year to come, as **JVP puts its new strategic plan into action.**

We’re devastated by the lives lost in the name of Jewish supremacy. We also renew our resolve, more determined than ever to end U.S. complicity in Israeli apartheid and build Jewish community beyond Zionism.

We’re so grateful to have you in this struggle with us. And we hope you’ll join us in this new year as we dream of the world to come.

A happy and sweet new year to you,

JVP

***COMMUNIQUÉ***

***VAN DE  ISRAËLISCHE MENSENRECHTEN ORGANISATIE YES DIN***

14 september 2023

This week, for the first time in Israel’s history, Israel’s High Court of Justice sat in its full capacity to deliberate a proposed amendment to the Basic Law: Judiciary, which seeks to cancel the court's use of the Reasonableness Clause when scrutinizing government actions. This amendment is just one of dozens of attempts by the most right-wing government in Israel’s history to weaken its legal system and gut judicial review.  
  
Yesh Din voiced its opposition as one of 37 Israeli civil and human rights organizations, when it joined the Association for Civil Rights in Israel as amicus curiae in its petition the High Court of Justice against this amendment. The struggle for democracy in Israel is inseparable from the fight to end the Israeli occupation. While Israelis are demonstrating for democracy, Palestinians residents of the occupied territories are forbidden from protesting against the military regime which has ruled nearly every aspect of their lives for the past 56 years and violates their rights on a daily basis.  
  
In these very challenging times, featuring some of the most extreme and rampant settler violence Yesh Din has ever documented, we continue to fight for justice for Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. So far this year, we have provided legal rights awareness training for 465 residents of the West Bank, including 106 women, we have documented 177 incidents of offenses committed against Palestinians and opened over 75 new legal cases in which we are representing Palestinian rights-holders. We continue to challenge this extreme government's annexation policies, including continuing to actively fight against Israel's plans to re-establish a settlement in Homesh, filing our third High Court petition in the case last month.  
  
**Ahead of the Jewish New Year, Yesh Din’s staff, volunteers and steering committee thank you for your support during this contentious period, and send our wishes for justice, peace and liberty.**

**Shana tova to you and yours!  
  
Yesh Din**

*20 september 2023*

Israel’s extremist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu traveled to the United States this week, at a time when more and more U.S. Jews are speaking out against Israeli apartheid.

In some ways, Netanyahu’s trip shows how isolated Israel’s ultra right-wing government has become. At the same time, it reveals how much material support he still has — and how much more work we still need to do to end U.S. support for Israeli apartheid.

Netanyahu might have had to fly all the way to San Francisco to meet with billionaire antisemite Elon Musk, but he still had an audience with the richest man in the world. And although President Biden declined to invite Netanyahu to the White House — a clear snub — he’s still meeting with the Israeli Prime Minister on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

**All out in New York: Netanyahu is not welcome.**

This Friday, Netanyahu will be in New York, where he’ll be attempting to defend Israel’s brutal apartheid regime before the United Nations. JVP-New York City is turning a mass protest outside of the U.N. on the day of his speech with one clear message: Jews for Palestinian freedom say Netanyahu is not welcome!

**Where do we go from here?**

U.S. Jews from San Francisco to New York City are speaking out for Palestine this week. You’re also going to be hearing from groups who are opposed to Netanyahu — but not yet committed to Palestinian liberation.

Our task now is leveraging the sentiment around Netanyahu to bring those criticizing Israel for the first time into the Palestine solidarity movement. As the largest anti-Zionist Jewish organization in the world, JVP has a critical role to play in doing just that!

*21 september 2023*

Over the past few years, we’ve worked together to make JVP the largest  anti-Zionist Jewish organization in the world.  
  
Next week, we’re launching our strategy to challenge U.S. support for Israeli apartheid over the next five years   
  
Join JVP and JVPA staff, and movement leaders **Dr. Angela Y. Davis, Naomi Klein, Omar Barghouti, and Aurora Levins Morales on September 27 as we kick off our plan to challenge U.S. support for Israeli apartheid.**

In the last few months, the Israeli state has further escalated its daily violence against Palestinians. Jewish settlers, emboldened by Israel’s ultra-right wing government, are carrying out more attacks.

We are devastated by all that has been lost in the name of Jewish supremacy — but we are not powerless.  
  
In order to fight most effectively, we’re bringing together more U.S. Jews than ever before, launching key campaigns to weaken the U.S.-Israeli alliance, and building power towards ending U.S. funding and support for Israel.

Stefanie Fox  
Executive Director

**DRINGENDE ACTIE NODIG: ROEP HET MINISTERIE VAN BUITENLANDSE ZAKEN OP DE MENSENRECHTENVERDEDIGERS IN MASAFER YATTA TE BESCHERMEN!**

*26 september 2023.*

Mensenrechtenverdedigers worden in heel Palestina bedreigd. In de afgelopen weken is Israëls onderdrukking van mensenrechtenverdedigers in Masafer Yatta toegenomen, Zij hebben onze solidariteit en steun nodig om hun moedige werk te kunnen voortzetten, en ze hebben ons gevraagd er bij onze regeringen op aan te dringen om namens hen op te komen tegen de systematische onderdrukking door de Israëlische staat.

**Stuur het bericht hieronder naar het ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken om de eisen van Palestijnse landverdedigers in Masafer Yatta onder de aandacht te brengen!**

**Oproep aan Bruno Mars**

De Amerikaanse zanger Bruno Mars wordt door Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) opgeroepen om zijn geplande optredens in Israël af te zeggen. In een open brief, ondertekend door fans, benadrukken zij het feit dat het optreden plaatsvindt op Yarkon Park, gebouwd op grond van het Palestijnse dorp Al-Shaykh Muwannis, dat etnisch werd gezuiverd.

**Reactie van BDS op de anti-BDS wetgeving in het Verenigd Koninkrijk**

BDS heeft inbreng geleverd in de procedure om 'anti-boycot’ wetgeving in het Verenigd Koninkrijk aan te nemen. Tijdens hoorzittingen over de wet werd geen enkele Palestijnse organisatie of vertegenwoordiger van BDS uitgenodigd of om een reactie gevraagd.

De voorgenomen wet is een anti-democratische, anti-Palestijnse poging om een vreedzame solidariteitsbeweging voor de Palestijnse rechten te onderdrukken. De wet zou overheidsinstellingen verbieden om mensenrechten of morele overtuigingen mee te laten wegen bij aanbestedingen.

Het wetsvoorstel vormt niet alleen een bedreiging voor de vrijheid van meningsuiting, het heeft ook als doel een breed scala aan campagnes met betrekking tot de wapenhandel, klimaatrechtvaardigheid, mensenrechten, internationaal recht en internationale solidariteit met onderdrukte volkeren die strijden voor gerechtigheid te onderdrukken.

In de jaren ‘80 werd er een soortgelijke poging gedaan om protest tegen de apartheid in Zuid-Afrika te verbieden. De regeringen van Schotland en Wales hebben zich al tegen de wet uitgesproken. Hoewel niet in een wet, zijn er in Nederland ook per motie door onder andere de SGP en PVV pogingen gedaan om BDS verboden te krijgen. .

**BDS tegen normalisatie Israël-Saudi-Arabië**

Het Palestijnse BDS Nationaal Comité (BNC) staat achter de meerderheid van de bevolking van Saudi-Arabië die de normalisatie tussen het Saudische regime en apartheid Israël veroordeelt.

De normalisatie-gesprekken, bemiddeld door de Amerikaanse regering, dienen vooral de belangen van de extreemrechtse regering van Israël op een moment dat het te maken heeft met ongekende binnenlandse protesten, groeiende internationale druk en een dreigende economische crisis. Ze dienen ook om het Saudische regime te ondersteunen ondanks de ernstige mensenrechtenschendingen.

Ook de Palestijnse bevolking veroordeelt de betrokkenheid van de Palestijnse Autoriteit bij deze normalisatiegesprekken, omdat het een excuus biedt voor een Saudisch-Israëlische overeenkomst die de rechten van het Palestijnse volk ondermijnt. De meest betrouwbare opiniepeiling in de Arabische regio heeft aangetoond dat 70% van de mensen in de Arabische Golfregio tegen diplomatieke betrekkingen met Israël is, terwijl slechts 8% deze steunt. In Saudi-Arabië is de verhouding van degenen die tegen dergelijke betrekkingen zijn tot degenen die ze steunen bijna 8 op 1.

De ‘Abraham Akkoorden hebben aangetoond dat zogenaamde ‘vredes’ overeenkomsten tussen het apartheidsregime van Israël en Arabische dictaturen voornamelijk militaire allianties zijn die Israël helpen zijn apartheidsregime te handhaven en de repressie van Arabische dictators te versterken. Israël verkoopt zijn militaire technologieën als "battle tested" en exporteert spionagesoftware, zoals NSO's Pegasus.

**Civil Society Organizations United in Opposition to Israel's Admission into the Visa Waiver Program**

*27 september 2023*

*Washington, DC - September 27, 2023:* Civil society organizations representing tens of thousands of Palestinian Americans, Arab Americans, Muslim Americans, and allied communities are expressing deep concern and outrage regarding the United States’ decision to admit Israel into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP) despite Israel not fully meeting the requirements outlined by the law.

Israel's admission to the Visa Waiver Program starkly contradicts the principles of the program itself. Despite being given an answer key to the program's requirements, Israel has yet to fulfill its obligations. And it has had no incentive to do so. Instead of requiring Israel to comply with the statutory requirement of reciprocity, the agreement signed between the U.S. and Israel completely flouts this principle by allowing Israel to implement different entry procedures that distinguish between U.S. citizens based on ethnicity, the IDs they hold, and various other factors. Compounding this, the U.S. government’s truncated evaluation period provided no real opportunity for assessment. To be clear, adherence to this agreement is not adherence to reciprocity.

We have no faith that Israel will fully abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the Visa Waiver Program, especially after being officially admitted. Many crucial questions about the decision's ethical implications have been raised, given Israel's long history of discriminatory actions against U.S. citizens and Palestinians in contravention of the program’s requirements and international law. These ethical concerns underscore the importance of not disregarding a country's past behavior when considering such privileges.

We call upon the U.S. government to reconsider its decision and prioritize the reciprocity, security, and international cooperation principles underpinning the Visa Waiver Program. The admission of any country into this program must be based on precise adherence to the established criteria and a demonstrated commitment to the program's core values.

The Biden administration must remember that reciprocity cannot be negotiated or compromised. Concessions that allow Israel to pick and choose which points of entry U.S. citizens can access and implement different entry processes for some Americans not only diminish the integrity of the VWP itself but enshrine discrimination against U.S. citizens into law.

**QUOTES FROM ORGANIZATIONS:**

**Executive Director of Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action) & American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), Dr. Osama Abu Irshaid**, said, “This announcement encapsulates the imbalance in the American-Israeli relationship. While Israel continues to violate its obligations under international law and undermine U.S. efforts to attain some kind of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, which ironically favors Israel, successive American administrations continue to reward Israel for its bad behavior. The Biden administration is no exception in this context. Despite the administration's repeated condemnation of Jewish settlement expansionist policies in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, Israel has never suffered political consequences.

Israel's admission into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP) falls in the same context. It cements the conventional wisdom that Israel enjoys the right to and immunity from ignoring America’s demands and damaging its standing in the world. The prevailing view is that the U.S. always backs down in the face of Israel's arrogance.

In the face of Israel's intransigence, the Biden administration yielded to its racism, which implemented a discriminatory two-tiered system of entry, especially for U.S. citizens residing in the West Bank and Gaza, contradicting the U.S. principles of reciprocity. This humiliating American concession makes it appear that Israel is doing the U.S. a favor by accepting to join the VWP, not vice versa.”

**Nihad Awad, Executive Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) National,** said, “It is clear that Israel is not currently in compliance with the Visa Waiver Program admission requirements, and the Biden administration must not rush to admit Israel into the program at the expense of the requirement of reciprocity for all U.S. citizens. CAIR and human rights organizations strongly urge Secretary Blinken and the Biden administration to heed the concerns raised by Palestinian and Muslim Americans and to deny Israel’s admission into the Visa Waiver Program until it can fully comply with all of the requirements and not harass and discriminate against American travelers.”

**Abed Ayoub, Executive Director of ADC National,** said, “By endorsing a tiered system for U.S. citizens, our government has given its tacit approval to Israel's prejudiced policies and apartheid actions. This decision broadcasts a stark message: not all American passport holders are viewed equally. ADC does not accept that message and will be using every available option to fight it.”

**Hanna Hanania, Government Affairs Committee Co-Chair and Past President of the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine (AFRP)**, said, “Although we were repeatedly assured that the core principle of the U.S. VWP is ‘blue is blue’, today’s announcement says otherwise. By admitting Israel into the VWP despite its clear disregard for the program requirements of reciprocity and equal treatment, the Biden administration has compromised both the integrity of the VWP and our rights as Americans. This is unacceptable and should raise alarms not just for Palestinian Americans - but for all Americans who believe that our government should prioritize safeguarding our rights as U.S. citizens. We are disappointed, but not defeated. Now is the time for us to hold our government accountable and make it clear that we will not accept anything less than full reciprocity for all Americans, no matter their ethnicity, religion, or politics.”

**Stefanie Fox, Executive Director of Jewish Voice for Peace Action**, said, "The Biden administration's decision to allow Israel's entry into the Visa Waiver Program is an outrageous endorsement of the Israeli government's systematic discrimination against Palestinian Americans and a reward to the most extremist, racist government in Israel's history. Once again, the U.S. is singling out Israel for special and exceptionalized treatment at the expense of the rights of Palestinian Americans. Jewish Voice for Peace Action calls for the immediate reversal of this decision."

**Ahmad Abuznaid, Executive Director of the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights**, said, "We learned from the civil rights movement the fallacy of 'separate but equal.' Today we are obligated to reject Israel's inclusion into the Visa Waiver Program because separate is never equal. Palestinian Americans' tax dollars are just as green, our passports are just as blue, and our rights are just as precious as any other American."

**Salam Al-Marayati, President of MPAC,** said, “Israel is not in compliance with the law as it relates to reciprocal treatment for all U.S. citizens, as evidenced by their continued targeting of Americans of Arab descent through travel bans with the absence of due process, seizure of property, harassment, interrogation, and detention at border crossings upon entry and exit. There remains no indication that any policy changes will be implemented to change this status quo. This decision will serve to embolden the Israeli government in its ongoing efforts to target American Muslims, Arab Americans, and Palestinian Americans and exploit the rules in the name of security. It also further damages our credibility as a country that values human rights and equality on the world stage.”

**Sandra Tamari, Executive Director of Adalah Justice Project,** said, "It is shameful that the U.S. continues to grant Israel not only unfettered impunity for violations of international law and human rights abuses, but also rewards it for its discriminatory policies. The U.S. has admitted Israel into the visa waiver program despite Israel's continued discrimination against U.S. citizens who are Palestinian. Israel's discrimination is especially egregious against Palestinian Americans with ties to Gaza, making reunification of families torn apart by Israel's siege and blockade of Gaza near impossible. Apartheid is not only Israeli policy, it is U.S. policy too.”

**Jehad Abusalim, Executive Director of The Jerusalem Fund for Education and Community Development,** said, “Israel's designation in the VWP is an endorsement of the actions and rhetoric of its right-wing government, especially given the ongoing challenges and brutal repression faced by Palestinians. Instead of rewards, it's essential for Israel to be held accountable for its actions and crimes.”

Signed,

Adalah Justice Project (AJP)  
Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action)  
American Muslims for Palestine (AMP)  
Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
Jewish Voice for Peace Action (JVP Action)  
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)  
The Jerusalem Fund for Education and Community Development  
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR)

*Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action), an affiliate of American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization lobbying for legislation that supports the human rights of the Palestinian people.*

*27 september 2023*

As the fall begins, farmers across Palestine are preparing for the upcoming olive harvest season—a time when families gather in their groves to pick fresh olives and tend to trees that have been passed down for generations.

Unfortunately, the olive harvest season is often marked by increased violence against Palestinian farmers.

Israeli settlers frequently attack Palestinian farmers and threaten their livelihoods by restricting access to their own lands, confiscating crops, and uprooting olive trees that have been cultivated for thousands of years.

Since 2010, dedicated supporters like you have helped counter these threats through our long-standing partnership with the Palestine Fair Trade Association (PFTA).

Last year alone,**generous donors like you helped plant 3,621 olive saplings in 40 villages across Palestine**, providing 700+ farmers and their families with future sustenance, as well as a renewed sense of hope and commitment to the land.

**Thank you!**

Over the summer, USCPR Executive Director Ahmad Abuznaid (left) visited our friend and partner, Mohamed Ruzi (right) of the PFTA. While in Jenin, Ahmad also met Mohammed Zein Alden (middle), a participant in the PFTA’s Trees for Life program.

**To make an even greater impact, the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights is preparing to launch our annual Rooting Resistance drive in just one week to plant another 4,000 olive trees in Palestine and power activism for Palestinian liberation here in the U.S.**

Keep an eye out for more updates! We’ll be in touch again soon to announce the launch of our drive and share how you can sow the seeds of resistance and help plant more trees than ever before.

Gratefully,

**MIKE DALY**

Development Director

*28 september 2023*

One day, when apartheid ends, Palestinians may demand reparations for enduring seven decades of displacement and oppression. On that day, at least one bank will be among the culpable:**Citibank, the largest U.S. bank operating in Israel.**

Citibank is guilty of supporting apartheid Israel.

**Citibank is complicit in the oppression and denial of freedom of Palestinians.**

That’s why we’re announcing a solidarity campaign with the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, Crescendo, and Ekō to send Citibank a message.

**Tell Citibank: Stop supporting Israel’s brutal apartheid! In recent months, at a time of unprecedented opportunity to delegitimize and weaken Israeli apartheid, Citibank has actively backed up Israel’s new government when similar institutions refused to do so.**

When Israel’s new Finance Minister, Bezalel Smotrich, called for a Palestinian village to be “wiped out,” entities like the International Monetary Fund and the US Chamber of Commerce refused to meet with him.³ But not Citibank. Instead, they held cordial meetings with Smotrich, helping “calm the markets,” effectively whitewashing Smotrich’s pro-genocide comments mere weeks after people began transferring billions of dollars from Israel. (1)

**Citibank’s functional support for Israeli apartheid is not new, or just PR — they’ve been actively invested in it.**  
**Citibank has:**

* Actively facilitated billions in Israeli military arms funding.
* Bragged about helping multi-national corporations “set up shop” in Israel.
* Made huge investments in Israel’s tech sector, itself deeply associated with decades of apartheid.

Citibank is a core partner to Israel, at a time when even Israeli investment experts say they “see too many…similarities between South Africa during apartheid and present-day Israel.”

And just as Citibank was forced to stop doing business with South Africa, we can do the same with Israel and Citibank.

**Do it for Palestine. Take action now.**

**The only way forward to freedom is through solidarity.**

**All of us, Palestinians and allies, are coming together to tell Citibank: We demand Reparations and Justice for Palestinians.**

**This petition is just the beginning. Will you join us?**

Thank you for all you do.

In solidarity,

Linda, Granate, Lau, and the team at MPower Change

Sources:

1. “Smotrich says his call to 'wipe out' Huwara was an 'emotional slip of the tongue',” *The Times of Israel*, March 14, 2023.

*29 september 2023*

I'm furious. The U.S. just let Israel into the Visa Waiver Program. This means Israelis can visit the U.S. for up to 90 days without a visa. Israel still discriminates against Palestinian Americans. It´s said before: The U.S. is giving Israel a pass for international law violations and discrimination. It´s unacceptable. Our government needs to know that we won't stand for rewarding discrimination.

Think about Palestinian Americans with ties to Gaza. Israel's actions, like the Gaza blockade, tear families apart. It's heart-wrenching.

**Apartheid isn't just Israel's thing; it's U.S. policy now too.**

Your actions count in the fight for justice.

**Tell the White House: Stop Rewarding Israel Racism**

**In determination and solidarity,**

Sandra Tamari

**Check out the amazing things we’ve been able to do so far this year!**

*29 september 2023*

As we approach the end of the third quarter of 2023, we wanted to take a moment to share the remarkable progress we've made this year in our relentless pursuit of justice for Palestine. We're excited to report that your unwavering support has been instrumental in helping us achieve groundbreaking milestones, and we're not stopping now!

At AMP, we've been on the frontlines, fearlessly championing the Palestinian cause and advocating for truth and justice. The results have been nothing short of extraordinary, and we're thrilled to share some of these remarkable accomplishments with you in this report. Year after year, our determination to restore justice in Palestine grows stronger, and our belief in the inevitable triumph of liberation becomes unshakable. Positive changes are taking root in the U.S., as reflected in successive and credible opinion polls that show growing support for Palestinian rights. The settler-colonial project in Palestine is now widely recognized as apartheid, and its favorability is plummeting at home and on the global stage. None of this progress is happening in isolation; it's the direct result of our tireless efforts, bolstered by increased resource investment.

Over the past 17 years, American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) has consistently demonstrated its ability, thanks to supporters like you, to achieve the seemingly impossible. We're eager to maintain our credibility through our continued hard work and accomplishments, as well as through our ongoing collaboration with supporters like you.